

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CGEN

SUBJECT: OKONGWU CHILD CUSTODY CASE

REF:A)LAGOS 7155 (1973); B) STATE 299691; C) STATE 300605

1. OLD WOUNDS FROM OKONGWU CHILD CUSTODY CASE (SEE REFTTEL), DORMANT FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HAVE SUDDENLY REOPENED. ONE CHILD, CHU DOZIE OKONGWU, IS NOW IN U.S. WITH MOTHER, ANNE L. OKONGWU. SECOND CHILD, NMUTAKA OKONGWU, REMAINS IN ENUGU WITH FATHER, DR. CHUKUDOZIE S.P. OKONGWU. DR. OKONGWU'S CURRENT POSITION UNKNOWN THOUGH MOST RECENT KNOWN POST WAS PERMANENT SECRETARY IN EAST CENTRAL STATE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HIS CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS MAY BE 7 COURT STREET, ENUGU. MRS. OKONGWU AND CHILDREN ARE AMCITS, AND MRS. OKONGWU HAS CUSTODY ORDER FOR BOTH CHILDREN FROM NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT. DR. OKONGWU HAS DIVORCE AND CUSTODY ORDER FOR BOTH CHILDREN FROM HIGH COURT OF THE

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EAST CENTRAL STATE OF NIGERIA (ENUGU JUDICIAL DIVISION).

DR. OKONGWU'S ORDER WAS OBTAINED IN JUNE 1973 IN SPITE OF THEN PENDING NEW YORK CUSTODY PROCEEDING OF WHICH HIGH COURT WAS AWARE, AND FOR WHICH NIGERIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK HAD GUARANTEED DR. OKONGWU'S APPEARANCE WITH CHILDREN. ALTHOUGH THE DISPUTE WAS QUIESCENT FOR PAST FEW YEARS, MRS. OKONGWU HAS RECEIVED WORD BY LETTER OF NOVEMBER 26, 1976,

FROM FRIEND AND AMCIT MRS. JOANNA UNAKA OF 9 KENYATTA ST., ENUGU, THAT DR. OKONGWU HAS CHARGED MRS. UNAKA AND SEVERAL NIGERIANS IN ENUGU OF AIDING MRS. OKONGWU IN "KIDNAPPING" OF CHILD NOW IN U.S., AND THAT ALL CHARGED HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND TEMPORARILY DETAINED. LETTER ALSO INFORMED MRS. OKONGWU OF THREATS AGAINST HER AND CHILDREN BY DR. OKONGWU. MRS. OKONGWU IS FEARFUL THAT DR. OKONGWU WILL RETURN TO U.S. TO HARM HER AND TAKE CHILD. MRS. OKONGWU'S ATTORNEY, MR. GREGORY ABBEY OF 26 COURT ST., BROOKLYN, N.Y. IS IN PROCESS OF OBTAINING A CONTEMPT ORDER AGAINST DR. OKONGWU SO HE WILL BE SUBJECT TO ARREST IN NEW YORK SHOULD HE COME WITHIN THE STATE.

2. SCS/WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS IS REQUESTING REFTELS (B) AND (C) AN INQUIRY INTO STATUS OF LEGAL CASE AGAINST MRS. UNAKA AND THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD REMAINING IN NIGERIA. IF DR. OKONGWU APPLIES FOR A VISA TO TRAVEL TO U.S. AT EMBASSY OR EITHER CONSULATE, PLEASE INQUIRE AS TO PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, HIS INTENDED DESTINATIONS AND POINT OF ENTRY. MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF HIS APPLICATION PRIOR TO TAKING ACTION ON IT. KISSINGER

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